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Distribution in Ontario of *Dracocephalum thymiflorum*¹

HERBERT GROH

A note by Prof. N. C. Fassett in TORREYA 41: 57. 1941, records the collection of *Dracocephalum thymiflorum* L. in 1938 from Manitoulin Island in the Province of Ontario, Canada, and refers to earlier stations in Massachusetts and Idaho.

Other Ontario records, unfortunately not published hitherto, should be added to that from Manitoulin. The plants sent were identified, and except the second which was returned to the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont., have been retained in the herbarium of this division. They are from: Shelburne, Dufferin Co., John Leigh, June 4, 1931; Perth, Lanark Co., Peter Byrne, June 26, 1931; Berwick, Stormont Co., H. W. Graham, July, 1935. Mr. Graham, at the same time, had an unconfirmed report of it from near Williamsburg, Dundas Co., Ont.

¹ Contribution No. 674 from the Division of Botany and Plant Pathology, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada.

Enquiries directed to a few Ontario herbaria have failed to add to this list. Also, from enquiries made, it does not appear that any of these colonies have attracted further notice. In each case the possibility of spread had been pointed out, perhaps to good purpose.

Linnaeus' Rules of Nomenclature

A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF PLANT NAMES

H. W. RICKETT

In a modern textbook of botany we read the naïve assertion that "botanists began the use of Latin names in order to avoid confusion." Actually the use of Latin by scholars was a survival, not a beginning; a survival from times when Latin was the spoken language of the civilized world. It has not always avoided confusion. Botanists of the eighteenth century thought it strange to use names other than Latin, and Linnaeus habitually wrote in Latin to his scientific correspondents. This helps explain why we have had to wait 200 years for a translation into English of an important work by the father of botany.

The *Critica Botanica* of Linnaeus now appears in a translation by the late Sir Arthur Hort, revised by Miss M. L. Green, and published by the Ray Society. In 1736 Linnaeus produced his *Fundamenta Botanica*, a small volume in which he expounded the science of botany as he understood it; one of the earliest of textbooks. Chapters VII-IX contained, in 115 brief numbered paragraphs, his proposals for a system of nomenclature of plants, which should reduce the prevailing chaos to rational and orderly procedure. The following year, largely because of the opposition of other botanists to some of his suggestions, he published the 115 aphorisms with full discussions and exemplification; this was the *Critica*. The *Fundamenta* formed the basis of the *Philosophia Botanica* of 1751, in which the discussion of nomenclature was again condensed.

Though he later abandoned many of his own ideas, these earlier works by Linnaeus are of value in tracing the development of his thought and in illuminating the problems which he encountered. He here propounds the rules, so long taken for granted that it is now difficult to imagine the conditions that made them necessary, that